

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

S & S Steel Fabrication

Utah Manufacturing Extension Partnership

S&S Steel Leans Down Processes to Achieve Savings and Safety

Client Profile:

S&S Steel Fabrication, Inc., founded in 1982, specializes in structural and miscellaneous steel fabrication for the industrial and commercial markets. Located in Hurricane, Utah, the family-owned business employs 57 people.

Situation:

S&S Steel Fabrication was always looking for ways to improve. The Utah Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP Utah), a NIST MEP network affiliate, visited S&S Steel and completed a Lean discovery assessment, but at the time S&S was not convinced that Lean could be applied to their particular way of doing business. After reading some success stories through various publications and articles on how Lean has and can improve the work environment, it became obvious that S&S needed to take a second look at Lean and partnering with MEP Utah to improve on-time delivery, quality, and customer satisfaction.

Solution:

MEP Utah conducted Lean 101 classes to help drive the Lean initiative at S&S Steel Fabrication. With guidance from MEP Utah's Field Engineer Kelly Davis, the company used Value Stream Mapping to identify customers' needs and put a plan in place to meet those needs efficiently. S&S then started working on 5S (Sort, Set in Order, Shine, Standardize, Sustain) workplace organization and safety. With the help of MEP Utah, the company has embraced improvements in the areas of parts fabrication, yard, fitting, welding and maintenance.

Results:

- * Increased sales by \$4.4 million.
- * Retained sales of \$2.2 million.
- * Realized \$300,000 in cost savings.
- * Improved safety for a cost savings of \$115,000.
- * Avoided unnecessary investments of \$1.5 million.

Testimonial:

"It has been great partnering with MEP Utah because of the unique tools and the way S&S Steel has been taught to apply them to our way of doing business. We are looking forward to continuing our implementation of Lean with MEP Utah's Kelly Davis and making incremental changes to continuously improve S&S in the future."

David Sanders, Lean Manager

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